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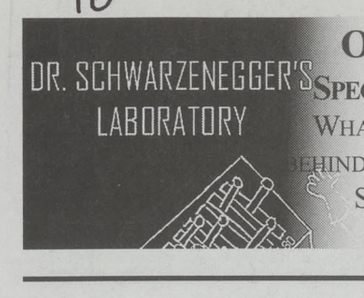
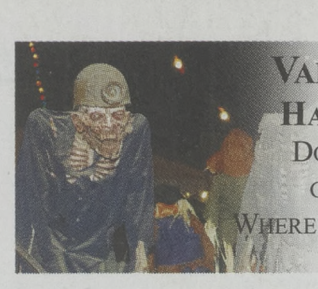


OPINION PG. 4
SPECIAL INTEREST?
WHAT IS THE REASEON BEHIND THE GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL ELECTION.



VALLEY LIFE PG. 6
HALLOWEEN MYTHS
DO YOU KNOW WHY WE GIVE OUT ON OCT. 31? WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

SPORTS PG. 6
GOING DOWNHILL
THE LADY MONARCHS STRUGGLLED AGANIST SANTA MONICA CORSAIRS

GALLERY PG. 8
CHEER UP
MONARCH CHEER TEAM IS LIFTING UP THE SPIRT OF THE VALLEY

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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 6 OCTOBER 26, 2005 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

SPECIAL ELECTION

Schwarzenegger's Reform Agenda

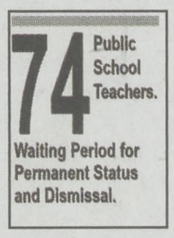
■ Part two in a two-part series outlining the ballot propositions.

BY BRIAN DEAN
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Schwarzenegger's push to reform the political climate in the state of California consists of a four-pronged attack: Propositions 74, 75, 76 and 77, which he urges voters to approve. The sweeping agenda would make it more difficult for unions to raise money for political advocacy, strip the Legislature of the power to draw congressional and legislative districts, extend the probationary period for new teachers, and place new restraints on state spending.

Backed by business leaders and the California Republican Party, Schwarzenegger says his plan is the much-needed fix to the state's broken political system; Numerous chambers of commerce, the California Bankers Association, 32 state assemblymen, and many more groups and individuals support the governor's plan.

Meanwhile, all four propositions are fiercely opposed by the Alliance for a Better California, a coalition of public employees, most notably teachers, firefighters and nurses. These include the Service Employees International Union, the California Teachers Association, and the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, among many others. Boasting nearly 2.5 million members, the Alliance calls the governor's plan the "special interest agenda," and has opposed the special election as wasteful.



Proposition 74 would change the probationary period for new K-12 teachers from two years to five. This waiting period before becoming permanent employees is also two years in eight other states, one year in three other states, and four years in another three states. Only Indiana and Missouri have them for five years, and the majority of states have them for three years.

The new law would also allow school districts to terminate permanent teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations. Currently, districts must specify the reasons for firing a teacher, give 30 days notice of its intent to dismiss, and provide a 90-day period to allow for improvement if the reason for termination is performance. Proposition 74 keeps the 30-day notice, but replaces the requisite documentation with the evaluation results, and eliminates the 90-day chance for improvement.

see *'Election'* page 2

Bus Line Attracts Vandals

SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

THERE IT GOES - Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa points out the distinctive features of the Metro Orange Line buses as County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky left and L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca look on.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After $200,000 in vandalism, 17 arrests, and 500 tickets, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa spoke Monday at the Orange Line stop near Valley College to discuss the safety issues of the 14-mile busway, which will run from the Warner Center in Woodland Hills to the Red Line Station in North Hollywood that is scheduled to open this Saturday.

see *'Orange Line'* page 2

Enrollment Numbers Could Cost Valley

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
OLINE EDITOR

Valley College President Tyree Wieder gave her State of the Campus speech Monday and said that the steadily decreasing enrollment over the past three years could cost the campus nearly $2 million.

Weeks ago, administrators pegged a faulty class schedule as one of the main causes for the enrollment drop. A few of the problems with the schedule include a lack of basic skills classes and courses that meet graduation requirements, according to school officials. Wieder added Monday that the school is having trouble holding on to its students.

"We are doing a good job bringing new students," said Sheri Berger, vice president of curriculum. "We are just not doing a good job keeping them here."

Valley's enrollment in 2002 was 19,275 and has since dipped to 16,238. Since most of the state's funding is tied to enrollment, Valley is concerned.

"I'm very hopeful and confident that we'll be able to reduce the [$2 million] deficit … by

see *'Enrollment'* page 5

Help the Victims of Hurricane Katrina

Purchase your lunch from LACV Katrina Relief Committee today from 11:30 am through 1:30 pm
In Monarch Square
Students:$5 Instructors:$10

Valley Star
Will not publish on Nov. 2.

In Cold Blood

■ November blood drive is expected to be the most successful drive yet.

BY EDUARDO MORÁN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's Pre-medical Engineering and Science and Scholar's Association will host its first annual blood drive in the North Gym Nov. 1.

"Usually [the student health center] does the blood drive on our own," said physician assistant Sonia B. Nodal. 'This time we involved P.E.S.S.A. and the biology department and that's what gave us the greatest support."

Though the Student Health Center has sponsored previous drives this is the first time outside groups, such as, P.E.S.S.A. has participated. More than 100 students and faculty have already signed up for the upcoming blood drive compared to half as many in previous drives, making it the largest planned donation Valley has ever had, according to P.E.S.S.A. president Lisa Foltz.

To be eligible to donate, a male or female donor must weigh at least 110 pounds, be at least 17 years of age and provide a photo ID to verify the donor's age. Most medications are OK except Accutane or antibiotics for infection. Pregnant donors cannot give blood. Anyone that received a tattoo in the last 12 months in California or another state that doesn't regulate tattoo parlors or that's had any body piercing in the last 12 months without using a sterile single use needle cannot give blood either.

60 percent of the U.S. population can donate blood but only 5 percent do, according to the American Red Cross and the two most common reasons why people don't donate blood is that they "never thought about it" and because people "don't like needles."

"I never need a reason to help people," said 21-year-old Emile Tolon, a nursing major. "That's why I love to donate blood. Some places buy your blood, but I don't expect anything in return."

The donor sign-up is so successful that a second blood drive is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 1. For now, P.E.S.S.A.'s goal is to get 300 people to sign up for the Nov. 1 drive.

Although appointments are preferred, walk-ins are still welcome. Students can contact the student health center at (818) 947-2918 to schedule an appointment or go online to www.givelife.org and enter sponsor code: lavc.

Legal Eagles Soar Down on Valley

■ New fall semester program offers students free legal advice.

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

Valley College held its first Associated Student Union-sponsored Legal Connection event last week outside of Monarch Hall, in what will be a series of events bringing professionals to campus to give free advice to students on their legal woes.

Rose Oganesyan, ASU evening division commissioner, helped organize the first event and explained what the ASU hopes to achieve from these events.

"We want to provide free legal advice for students," Oganesyan said. "Any students who have questions regarding legal issues are encouraged to visit us on the dates announced."

This project was put together by the ASU in conjunction with a $500 grant funded by the Valley Community Legal Foundation of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. The grant covered the cost of refreshments and publicity, but no compensation is given to the attorneys, all volunteers from the San Fernando Valley Bar Association.

The first day featured the services of Attorneys Martha

see *'Legal Advice'* page 5

The ASU's upcoming Legal Connection events are scheduled for today, Nov. 9, Nov. 17, Dec. 1 and Dec. 7. The tentative lists of topics to be discussed are bankruptcy, housing, immigration and criminal law.

Civil Rights Icon Dies

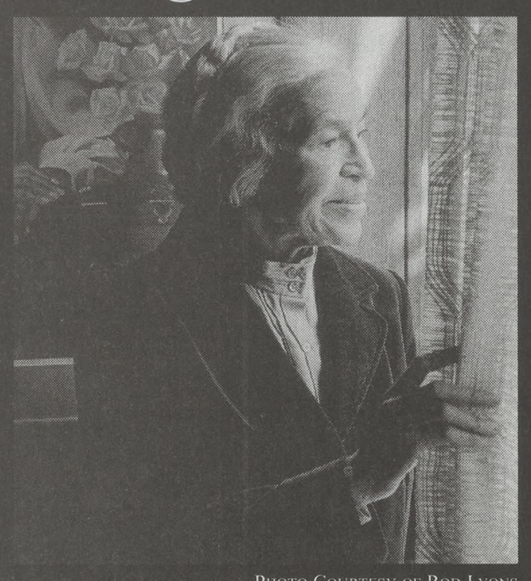


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROD LYONS

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

Rosa Parks, considered by many the mother of the civil rights movement, died of natural causes on Monday in her Detroit apartment. She was 92.

Parks' refusal to give up her seat to a white person on a Montgomery, Ala. bus in Dec. 1955 sparked a boycott that led to a Supreme Court ruling that outlawed segregation. Having walked alongside civil

see *'Parks'* page 2

NEWS

NEWS REEL

Iraqi Constitution Adopted:
Baghdad, Iraq – the Iraqi constitution has been adopted as the American death toll reaches 2001 soldiers killed since the U.S. invaded in March of 2003. 78 percent of Iraqis voted for the constitution.

Hurricane Wilma Damage in Florida:
Broward County, Fla. – Residents struggle to find the necessities of food, water, gas and electricity in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma. Six million people are without power and water – that's five times more than those without electricity after Katrina.

Two Hosts to Replace Stern:
New York – As radio shock-jock Howard Stern prepares to move to Sirius Satellite radio in January, he announced David Lee Roth would take over his post with east coast stations and that comedian Adam Carolla would handle the west cost. Stern's show is broadcast on 27 stations nationwide.

Orange County and Long Beach Airports Reopen after Bomb Threats:
Bomb threats were phoned in to both John Wayne and Long Beach airports around 3 a.m. Tuesday. No flights were affected in Orange County but all early morning flights were cancelled out of Long Beach. No explosive devices were found.

CAMPUS EYE

Hurricane Katrina Fundraiser:

A Taste of New Orleans Lunch
Today at Monarch Square.
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Students $5 non-students $10

"Breast Cancer Awarnee Month"

Help the Student Health Center in fight against breast cancer.
Today at the Monarch Square
11:00a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
STARS Workshop :

"The Diverse College: Dialogues in Community, Diversity, and Social Justice."
Friday Oct. 21
Campus Center, Fireside Room
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

THINK TRANSFER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CAREER TRANSFER CENTER AT (818) 947-2646

Wednesday, October 26
UCLA Rep 9a.m.-3p.m.
CSUN rep 5p.m.-7p.m.
CSU Application Workshop 1p.m.

Thursday, October 27
Undecided about your Major or Career Seminar 1p.m. or 5p.m.
UC Berkeley Black Recruitment and Retention Center Rep 2p.m.

Monday, October 31
CSULA rep 10a.m.-1p.m.
UC Application Workshop 5:30p.m.

Tuesday, November 1
UC Santa Barbara Rep 10a.m.-2p.m.
UC Application Workshop 1pm
CSU Application Workshop 5:30pm
CSULA Rep 4p.m.-7p.m.
Deadline to sign up for the UCLA TAP/Transfer Conference on Friday, November 4, 9a.m.-3p.m.
Free bus available or go on your own

Wednesday, November 2
CSUN Rep 10a.m.-1p.m.
CSU Application Workshop 1p.m.

'Election'

continued from page #1

Schwarzenegger and his supporters say Proposition 74 eliminates the complex rules that protect poor-performing teachers, but the Alliance calls it unnecessary, ineffective and unfair. Teachers say they get blamed for failing schools while the governor ignores serious problems like underfunding and overcrowding. They also point to education experts at Stanford University who say they're not aware of any evidence linking longer probationary periods to improved teacher quality.

75 Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on Political Contributions. Employee Consent Requirement.

Proposition 75 requires public employee unions to obtain written permission from their members to allow dues and fees to be used for political purposes. While current law already allows union members to opt out of paying dues for politics, the governor contends that members are essentially forced to pay through coercion and intimidation; thus Proposition 75 would be for the union members' own protection. According to the Schwarzenegger campaign, union bosses make the current opt-out process difficult for members to comply with, and sometimes penalize workers who try by taking away certain union benefits.

"I haven't heard those stories," says Joanne Waddell, the American Federation of Teachers representative for Valley College. "If anything there's a respect for people who take the extra step to opt out."

Waddell believes Proposition 75 is just the first step in an effort to silence the voice of the worker. The Alliance echoes Waddell's sentiments, claiming this is nothing more than an attempt to weaken the political power of public employees under the guise of safeguarding the worker's paycheck.

One of the most complex issues on the ballot is Proposition 76. Simply put, it makes key changes the constitution regarding state spending and school funding.

76 State Spending and School Funding Limits.

The first major provision of Proposition 76 changes the basis for state spending. Instead of automatic spending increases based on population and the economy, the new law would limit spending to an average of revenue growth for the previous three years. According to legislative analysis, this means over the next few years, state spending for local governments could begin to decrease.

Part two of the proposition allows the governor to declare a fiscal emergency in certain situations, giving him the power to unilaterally reduce spending if an agreement cannot be reached on how to alleviate the crisis.

Perhaps the most important aspect of Proposition 76 is the series of funding changes to what is called K-14 education, kindergarten through community college.

Proposition 98, passed by voters in 1988, established a minimum funding guarantee for K-14. Then, in 1990, Proposition 111 amended Proposition 98 by adding a measure to pay back funding deficits resulting from the Legislature's ability to suspend Proposition 98, or the governor's ability to reduce spending for certain budget items.

Proposition 76 means that funding deficits would no longer be tracked, and when state income falls, the automatic decrease in spending would not occur. Despite this, funding may still decrease because deficit repayments are included in the current calculations for spending. Therefore, the governor or Legislature may choose to spend less than the "minimum guarantee" with no obligation to put the money back into the system later.

The Schwarzenegger campaign continues to stress the need to reform the business-as-usual attitude that they believe has ruined California.

"Proposition 76 is very clear about that we have to live within our means," said the governor in a speech to the League of California Cities.

But the Alliance fears this proposal would lead to teacher layoffs, more overcrowding, and fewer classroom materials. Since the $2 billion borrowed by the governor from schools to help balance the budget in 2004 has yet to be repaid, Alliance members do not trust Schwarzenegger with any new authority over budget decisions.

"Under Prop 76, funding for schools will be cut by nearly $4 billion," said Joe Nuñez, chairman of the Alliance, in an Oct. 11 press release blasting a "Yes on 76" television commercial. "On top of that, anytime the governor wanted to, he could cut funding even more."

In addition to placing school spending in danger, opponents of Proposition 76 also worry that the new spending limits would adversely affect funding for police, firefighters and county hospitals.

77 Redistricting.

The final piece of the governor's reform campaign is Proposition 77, another constitutional amendment that would change the rules for redrawing districts for state Legislature, Congress, and the Board of Equalization.

Instead of the current system in which the Legislature redraws the boundaries every 10 years based on U.S. Census data, Proposition 77 gives that duty to a panel of three retired judges selected by legislative leaders.

The judges must adhere to certain restrictions, including having never held a partisan public office, among other rules. The legislators responsible for selecting the panel must be composed of two Republicans and two Democrats.

Supporters, including the Schwarzenegger team, call this the "Voter Empowerment Act" because it gives citizens the ability to approve or reject the boundaries drawn by the three-judge panel. They say that Proposition 77 has the power to guarantee fair, competitive elections and hold politicians accountable.

After the judges unanimously agree on a plan, that plan will be placed on the ballot for the next general election. If approved, that plan will be used until the census requires new redistricting. If the plan is rejected, a new panel of judges will be appointed to create a plan for the following general election.

However, its rivals, like the Alliance, point out that once the proposition is passed, voters will not be able to reject any plan until after it goes info effect. When the judges agree on a redistricting plan, it will be used in the same election that decides whether voters accept it or reject it. Politicians will still be in control of the redistricting process, but they won't be accountable because they'll have the judges to blame.

For More Information A bout the Initiatives: Please visit the California Secretary of State's website @
www.ss.ca.gov
more valuable details and analysis can be found @
www.realclearpolitics.com
www.smartvoter.org
cal-access.ss.ca.gov

'Parks'

continued from page 1

Dec.1955 sparked a boycott that led to a Supreme Court ruling that outlawed segregation. Having walked alongside civil rights giants like Martin Luther King Jr., she was an important part of the movement for racial equality.

The unassuming seamstress never imagined that her actions that day would be so historic.

"When I got on the bus that evening I wasn't thinking about causing a revolution or anything of the kind," Parks told author Wayne Greenhaw, who co-wrote a book about the Montgomery bus boycott. "…But when that white driver stepped back toward us … and ordered us up and out of our seats, I felt a determination cover my body like a quilt on a winter night… I felt a light suddenly shine through the darkness."

The impact of her stand would be felt across the nation for many years, including here at Valley College.

"I feel like everyone should know what she stood for," said Chauntavia Burnley, the Black Student Union president. "Looking at all she went through for what she believed in, there should be no excuse for anyone to not do what they believe in."

President Bush praised Parks in a speech yesterday, calling her "one of the most inspiring women of the 20th century."

She was regarded as an eloquent voice of the civil rights movement, and an advocate of nonviolent protest, according to Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich, who she worked for in the 1960s.

Parks' activism didn't begin or end with the famous bus protest, she was an active member of the civil rights community, having worked in the N.A.A.C.P. voter registration movement and served as a secretary for the local Alabama branch in 1943. After her historic moment, she took part in speeches across the country well into her 80s and won the presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.

Parks' action is a testament to the strong effect one person could have for so many people.

"It's just interesting that when society is ready for something, that an average citizen like that can take a stand and spark a movement," said Valley history instructor John Maddox.

For more information on Rosa Parks, please visit www.lavalleystar.com

Staff writer Greg Kandaharian also contributed to this story.

'Oragne Line'

continued from page 1

In the last six months, Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies have written more than 500 tickets, arrested 17 people and solved cases involving more than $200,000 in vandalism along the Orange Line's route, said Sheriff Lee Baca.

"Public safety is my top priority," said Villaraigosa, who is also the chair of Metropolitan Transportation Authority. "Safety is in the mind of all of us here at Metro."

Unlike trains, the Orange Line doesn't have barriers to block vehicles, which makes it easier for vehicles to run a red light and crash into the 60-foot buses. The Sheriff's Department warns drivers and pedestrians to pay special attention to traffic signals and signs posted around the busway.

City Councilperson Wendy Greuel, chair of the Transportation Committee, said she introduced a motion last week asking the city's Department of Transportation to work with Metro and law enforcement officials to report to the council every 30 days on any safety issues arising from the Orange Line.

"I'm committed to making the Metro Orange Line as safe and convenient as any line we operate," said Yaroslavsky. "It is vitally important that we learn and follow the rules of the road to ensure that our new line will be one of the best ones yet."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who came up with the idea Orange Line, after observing a similar bus system while on a trip to Curitiba, Brazil.

The new busway allows riders to get away from the traffic on the 101 Freeway and commuters are expected to save up to $5,000 year if they use the Orange and Red lines to get to and from downtown, according to Yaroslavsky.

The $330-million busway is the Valley's first major public transportation system in the San Fernando Valley, but it won't be the last one.

"The Orange Line is a down payment for what is to come," Villaraigosa said. "The Orange Line is truly the Valley's fastest public system."

Drivers should use extra caution when driving around the busway, because Sheriff deputies are not warning anymore.

"We were issuing warning tickets before Sept. 1," said Sgt. Dave Willard, area supervisor of the Sheriff's Department. "Since Sept. 1, we [have been]ticketing every violation in and around the Orange Line."

MTA will offer free rides on the line this weekend to encourage people to try out the Valley's newest transportation system.

CAMPUS CRIME

Above the Rim

BY EDUARDO MORÁN
STAFF WRITER

Theft

A staff parking permit was stolen from a locked vehicle parked across the gym on Ethel Avenue between 8:30 p.m. Oct. 12 and 10 a.m. Oct. 13. The victim noticed her staff permit was missing on Thursday at 10 a.m. when she arrived at Valley, but she didn't remember if the permit was missing at 8:30 p.m. the day before. The vehicle showed no signs of forced entry and campus police were unable to determine whether the permit was stolen at Valley. There are no suspects or witnesses.

A student parking permit was stolen from a vehicle parked in lot G on Oct. 10 between 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The victim stated she placed the permit on her vehicle's rearview mirror and left for class. She returned at 1:30 p.m. to discover her parking permit missing. The car was locked but there were no signs of forced entry. No suspects or witnesses have been reported.

A parking permit was stolen from a parked vehicle in lot E Thursday, Oct. 6 between 5:30 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. It's believed the thief reached into the vehicle from the driver's side door because the window does not roll up fully and there was a 7-inch gap. There were no signs of forced entry and campus police did not conduct a search for suspects or witnesses because the victim reported the incident 11 days later.

Battery

A Valley College student was punched in the mouth while playing basketball at the south gym on Oct. 19 at 9:50 p.m. The aggressor punched the student because he elbowed him during the game according to police reports. Players from each team separated them and the suspect ran out of the north exit of the gym. The victim was left with two bleeding cuts in his lips. The suspect is not believed to be a student on campus and the victim thinks Valley should be liable because the gym is not monitored properly. He said he contacted his lawyer to perhaps sue the college. Campus police searched the area but were unable to find the suspect.

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

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OPINION

The Nov. 8 Election: Now Isn't That Special?

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES. THIS WEEK:
DOES PROP. 75 PROTECT EMPLOYEES' PAYCHECKS OR SILENCE UNION VOICES?

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com*

Who Is That Little Man Behind the Curtain?

■ On one side: Big Business. On the other: Unions trying to preserve your voice in government.

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
OPINION EDITOR

Much like looking at an illustration in a children's magazine, a closer look at Proposition 75 reveals items hidden within the bigger picture.

Gov. Schwarzenegger and the other supporters of Prop.75 insist that it is designed to protect public workers' rights—if passed it will stop public-employee labor unions from deducting a portion of an employee's union dues from their paychecks for political contributions without permission.

Employees already have the right to opt out and the 1988 ruling by the Supreme Court, *Communications Workers v. Beck*, states that workers who are forced to pay union dues as a condition of employment are not required to pay dues beyond those necessary for collective bargaining purposes. Therefore, despite what the big business concerns behind Prop 75 would have you believe, no employee is forced to give money for political purposes.

The truth is, their argument is nothing more than an attempt to silence teachers, police officers, firefighters and nurses from speaking out against Arnie's legislative moves. Union workers have been very vocal, asking, "Where's the $2 billion that has not been paid back to our schools?" "What's happening to our pension benefits?" and "What will happen to our power to lobby for a legislative voice?" After all, while he has accepted millions of dollars from big business, the governor has labeled these union workers— teachers, firefighters, and police officers–as "special interests."

Why would he take this outrageous stand? Is it because workers have been so successful in defending their rights from legislative and big business attacks?

That's the agenda hidden within Prop.75. It will give more political power with no restrictions on spending and lobbying to big corporations that support the governor's agenda.

The Governator and his cronies are trying to make it harder for union workers to fight back. And what happens then? Without that strong union voice, Schwarzenegger and the Legislature will cut funding for public schools, cut health care and pensions. Let's take a look at those supporters of Prop. 75 shall we—what a surprise…they're right-wing Republicans. Lead supporter Lewis Uhler, President, National Taxpayer Limitation Committee was a card-carrying member of the John Birch Society.

"We are empowering people and not taking power away," said Uhler, a conservative activist, about Prop. 75. He was apparently referring to his deep-pockets buddies and not the hard-working people who teach, protect and heal.

Stop Unions from Stealing Your Voice

■ Vote "No" on Prop. 75...Vote "No" on the First Amendment.

BY GREG KANDAHARIAN
STAFF WRITER

America is no longer a country of its people. It is, instead, a country of its rulers. This is the mind set of those who oppose Proposition 75.

If Prop. 75 passes it will give union workers such as teachers, firefighters and police officers the right to choose whether or not money from their paychecks should be used for political purposes.

As of now, union leaders can take money from the paychecks of these workers and disperse them as they wish among political parties of their choice.

The Los Angeles Times believes that "Proposition 75 constitutes an important step in the right direction."

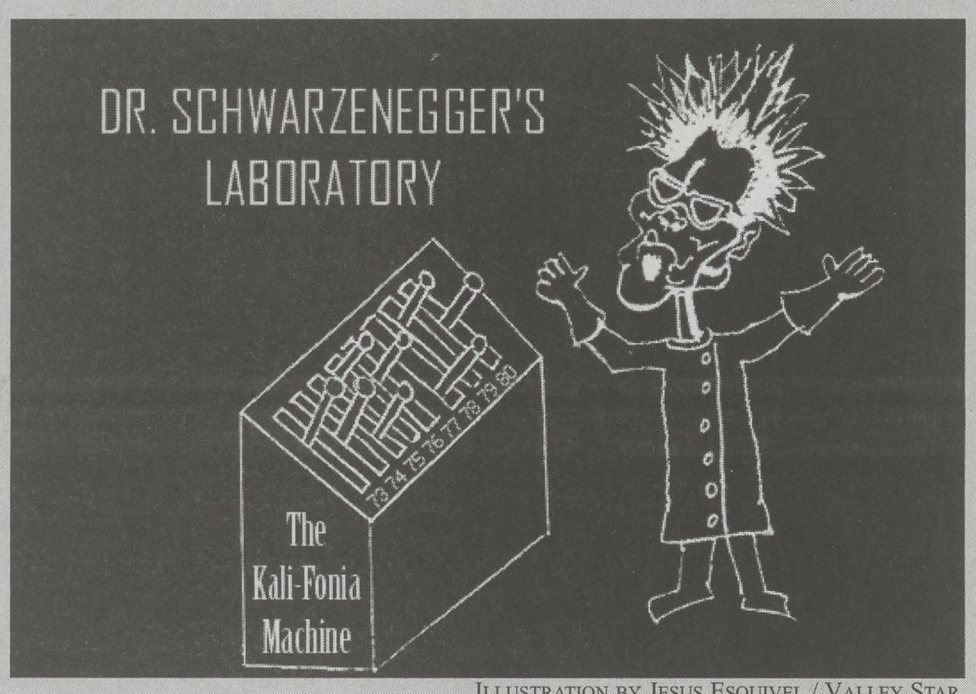


ILLUSTRATION BY JESUS ESQUIVEL / VALLEY STAR

Union leaders, however, are enraged by Prop. 75 which is no surprise considering it will cut their power immensely and limit their control over the hard-working members they represent.

While opposing Proposition 22 a 2000 initiative that defined marriage as between a man and a woman, unions spent $68,000 of public employee unions' money even though a Los Angeles Times exit poll found that 58 percent of union households had voted yes on the initative.

And during the recall of former Gov. Gray Davis, unions spent $25.7 million to oppose the recall, yet exit polls found that 56 percent voted for a Republican candidate to replace him.

It seems that these unions are not working as hard to serve their members as they are at dispersing union money according to their dictates.

Is this the Prop. 75 our teachers, firefighters and police officers are fighting against?

Imagine you're a teacher and you just finished lecturing a class about the importance of your first amendment right to free speech only to go home to find a portion of your paycheck handed out to a politician without your consent.

Union leaders must start being more accountable to their members.

They have more power than they need and less supervision than ever.

It is un-American and should be illegal to take money from the paychecks of hard-working Americans and use it to the benefit of politicians they may not even support.

Some of you may not be directly affected by this proposition but rest assured, if union leaders can get away with controlling the political agenda of its members, there's nothing stopping those in higher positions from doing the same.

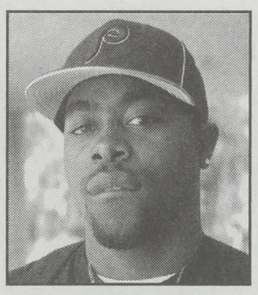
Campus View

Where do you stand on the propositions?

PHOTOS BY MARIA LOW

"[Prop. 73] Some parents you can"t communicate with, it's a hard issue that's really close to a lot of people. What it comes down to is it's a persons right to choose what they need to do. It's not a government's issue."

Lysette Lopez
Art History Major



"I agree [with Prop 73], your parents should know everything that you're doing until you turn 18, there's a lot of kids that's out here and they make mistakes when they're young and it ruins their future."

Lorail Allen
Criminal Justice Major

"[Prop. 73] I'd like to know what's going on with my daughter, so to me it's very important for them to let me know what's going on, not to have a judge to make that decision for me."

Nora Castro
Sociology Major

"[Prop. 75] I don't agree with Arnold trying to bar the unions from speaking out."

Israel Salas
History Major

It's Déjà Vu All Over Again

■ Haven't we seen Prop. 76 somewhere before?

BY BRIAN DEAN
STAFF WRITER

Proposition 76 is a prime example of a solution without a problem.

The Alliance for a Better California calls the special election a waste. This assessment can scarcely be more accurate than with respect to Prop. 76.

Many may not remember as far back as, March 2004, voters passed Proposition 58, the "California Balanced Budget Act." As the title implies, it requires the actual operating budget enacted by the governor and the Legislature to be balanced.

Set to go into effect next year, Prop. 58 also establishes specific requirements for creating a budget reserve, and allows the governor to proclaim a fiscal emergency in certain situations.

Yet Gov. Schwarzenegger, in his fervent support for Prop. 76, seems to be one of those who have forgotten all about Prop. 58. He says Prop. 76 "will control spending to end state deficits, and balance the state budget without raising taxes." He calls it the "Live Within Our Means Act," and blames the system of automatic spending growth for the train-wreck budget situation.

But it sounds extraordinarily similar to Prop. 58; hence, the phrase "balanced budget" in its title. The state must eliminate its debt before it can create the reserves mandated by Prop. 58, and all spending growth will be constrained by the state's income.

So, what's the real purpose of Prop. 76?

Power.

The Republican governor wants to prove that he knows better than the majority Democratic Legislature. Prop. 58's provision for declaring a fiscal emergency requires the governor to submit budget proposals to the Legislature.

However, Prop. 76 allows the governor to act unilaterally to reduce spending if an agreement can't be reached. If so inclined, Schwarzenegger could concoct a budget emergency and ensure that no proposal from the Legislature would adequately resolve the situation. Then, any spending program deemed undesirable could be at risk. One only needs to point to the $2 billion "borrowed" from schools as proof that direct budget cuts can be circumvented.

Prop. 58 passed with 71 percent of the vote because Californians were fed up with the irresponsible spending habits of the Legislature. But Prop. 76 is just a power grab disguised as more of the reform launched in 2004. It should be exposed as such and rejected.

Just Say No to 78 (and Yes to 79)

BY JESUS ESQUIVEL
STAFF WRITER

Like that "Dueling Banjos" song, Propositions 79 and 78 sound similar but they're really playing different tunes.

Both propositions would create a new discount drug program for uninsured Californians, and negotiate drug company rebates. But Prop. 79 would have federal regulations for pharmaceutical companies to follow while Prop. 78 would be more lassai-faire.

With Prop.79, companies would be penalized for not providing discounts. Where as with Prop.78 drug companies wouldn't have to provide a single discount and it's strongly backed by the pharmaceutical industry while Prop.79 is supported by labor and consumer groups.

Prop.79 would give bigger discounts to more people; 10 million, while Prop.78 would only cover 5 million.

With Prop.79, drug companies that disagree with the low prices can have their products removed from preferred status with Medi-Cal: doctors would still be able to prescribe the medicine; they'd just need to fill out more paperwork. With Prop.78, drug companies don't have to participate in the program at all.

Californians with incomes up to four times the federal poverty level (approximately $38,000 per person and $77,000 for a family of four) would qualify for a drug discount card with an annual fee of $10 under Prop.79.

Under Prop.78 Californians with incomes up to three times the federal poverty level (approximately $29,000 for one person and $58,000 for a family of four) would qualify for a drug discount card with an annual fee of $15.

Prop.79 would establish the Prescription Drug Advisory Board, which would monitor pharmaceutical companies in order to prohibit profiteering from drug sales.

In addition, Prop.79 would also establish a drug discount program for business and labor organizations that purchase medical coverage for their employees and members. Prop.78 has no similar provision.

Prop.78 has been accused of being a smokescreen set up by the pharmaceutical industry to stop Prop.79, which would set up stronger rules and regulations for pharmaceutical drug companies to follow.

In a way Prop.78 has already been given a chance in 2001, when California implemented the short lived Golden Bear State Pharmacy Assistant Program. More than 500 drug manufacturers were asked to participate and only 14 joined the program.

If California votes to establish a voluntary program on Nov. 8 it will simply be history repeating. If both propositions pass, the one with the most votes will be implemented.

FOR THE RECORD

Last week's story "Throwing the Book at...All the Wrong People" (Oct. 19), the Valley Star wrongly reported that the LACCD adopted Board Rule 6416, which would prohibit instructors from exchanging money with students. Board Rule 6416 was pulled from discussion and might be considered by the Board at a later date.

Valley Life

Wednesday to Tuesday

Wednesday, Oct. 26

The Bad Plus
The Roxy Theatre
8 p.m.
$18 in advance,
$20 at the door
(310) 278-9457

A Taste of New Orleans Lunch
Monarch Square
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
$5 students, $10 non-students

Breast Cancer Awareness
Monarch Square
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 27

Valley College Concert Event
Music Recital Hall
11:30 a.m.
(818) 947-2346

Saturday, Oct. 29

Halloween Homecoming Dance
Monarch Hall
9 p.m.-12 a.m.
Free Admission when you attend the football game or $2 at the door

Metro Orange Line Grand Opening Community Celebrations:

North Hollywood Metro Red Line Park and Ride Lot, Northeast corner
Festivities include live jazz, blues and rock and roll music, improvisational comedy, a dance troupe, community booths and food vendors.

Van Nuys Park and Ride Lot, corner of Van Nuys and Aetna St.
The event includes a Mariachi Band, Grant High School Bands, bicycle safety checks, drawings and booths.

Balboa Park and Ride Lot, corner of Victory and Balboa
Learn about exciting summer programs for the whole family, an elementary school choral performance, give-aways and more.

Pierce College Campus, corner of DeSoto and Victory in Woodland Hills
"Halloween Harvest Festival" from 10 a.m.-11 p.m.
Festivities include a pumpkin patch, corn mazes, a haunted house and a maze.

Westfield Mall Parking Lot, corner of Erwin and Owensmouth
Festivities include El Camino Marching Band, KOST-103.5 live remote and more.

Monday, Oct. 31

West Hollywood Costume Carnaval
6 p.m.-midnight
Free admission

Thursday, Nov. 3

"Dames at Sea"
Opening Night
Horseshoe Theatre
8 p.m.
For Reservations call (818) 947-2790

Friday, Nov. 4

Movie Releases:
"Chicken Little" (G)
"Jarhead" (R)
"Shopgirl" (R)

Musical

By Tammy Funicello
Valley Life Editor

This year the Performing Arts Department's musical, "Dames at Sea," will take the audience back to the 1930s, with all the characters from that era.

The show is about a young girl named Ruby, played by Lorin Henner, who goes to New York City and is determined to be on Broadway. The play, which is a look back at the 1930s, was written in the 1970s by George Haimsohn and Robin Miller and the music by Jim Wise as seen through the eyes of Busby Berkeley, who is known for his extravagantly staged music spectaculars.

"This is a good old fashioned musical with songs that make you smile," said assistant director Barbara Brownell. "The worst word they say is heck."

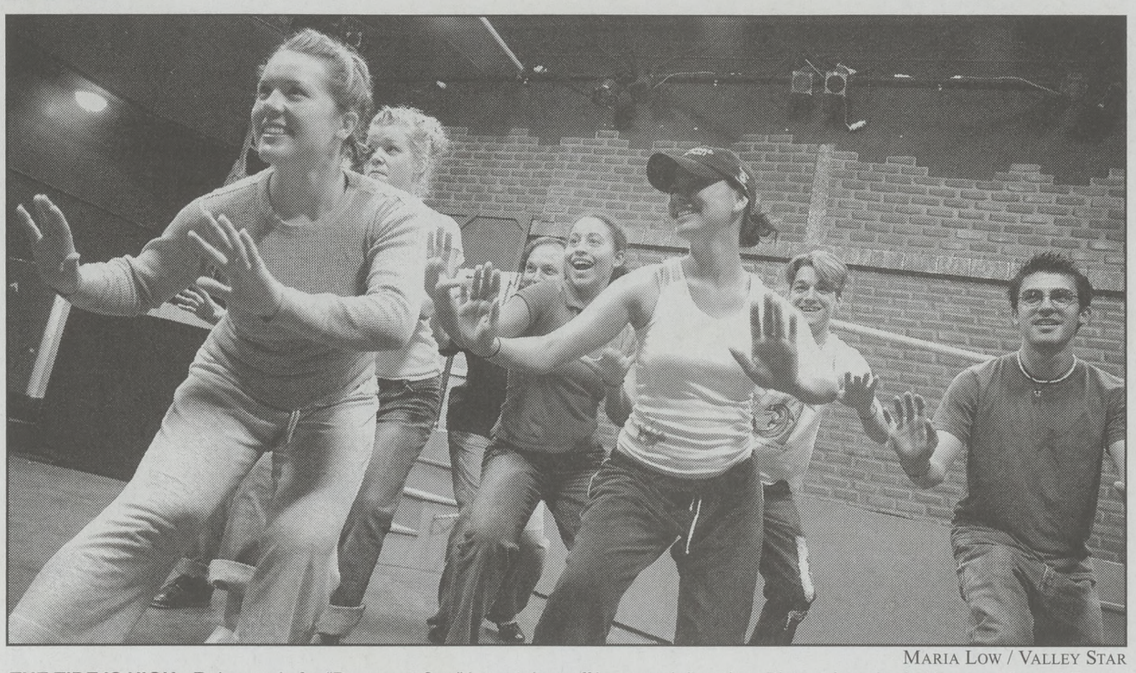
The cast of 10 has been rehearsing five days a week for the last month. All cast members are students who have to balance school and the play along with everything else. There is even a 14-year-old freshman at Glendale High School in the cast who is a tap genius, according to Director Cathy Pyles.

"This is my first tap dancing production, but I love musicals," said Dillon Zrike, who plays Charlie, the main tap dancer. "It's hard to balance between going to rehearsal from 4-8 every night and then doing my homework until 1 a.m. Then I have to do it all over again the next day."

"Dames at Sea" was chosen because it was one of the feel good musicals of the time, said Pyles.

"I think the show is cheesy in a cute and funny way," said Carly Turner. "It is an evening of nostalgia. The play is about an era that has been forgotten, when there were simple things in life."

The show, which will include a pianist and a drummer accompanying the musical numbers, is already sold out closing night, but there are still tickets available for the other dates.



Maria Low / Valley Star

THE TIDE IS HIGH - Rehearsals for "Dames at Sea" have taken off in a good direction. Pictured are Lorin Henner, Vincent Perez, Oscar Luzanilla, Chavonne Rees, Jenna Townsend, Carly Turner, Heather Williams and Daniel Zrike.

"Dames at Sea"
Nov. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12
Horseshoe Theatre
8 p.m.
Tickets are $15 for General Admission and $10 for Students and Seniors
For reservations call (818) 947-2790

Demystifying the Myths

By Lyndsay Phillips
Staff Writer

The last day in October would be just another day without an acceptable overdose of sugar coursing through our bodies. As we carve pumpkins, find scary costumes and go trick-or-treating on what has become a multi-billion-dollar holiday, do we even know where these odd traditions stemmed from?

"For many of us, our history begins when we're a kid," said Valley anthropology instructor Leanna Wolfe. "Getting dressed up and getting candy. [Halloween] was originally part of a Celtic festival. With the influx of Christianity, it got transformed."

In pre-Christian Ireland, the Celtic New Year was celebrated on Oct. 31. This date also marked the end of summer and the onset of a cold, dark winter, called Samhain (pronounced Sow-en).

When Roman Christians began to inhabit the area in the first century AD, also known as the Common Era, Samhain became infused with their traditions. In 835, Pope Gregory IV moved the Christian celebration of All Hallows Day, a term from Middle English Alholowmesse meaning All Saints' Day, to Nov.1, creating All Hallow's Eve on Oct. 31, according to www.historychannel.com.

"The veil between the worlds' was at its thinnest," wrote pastor Dennis Rupert of New Life Community Church of Stafford, based on his study of Celtic Mythology. "The dead could communicate with the living." The Celts also believed that all laws of time and space were suspended during this time.

Not wanting to be possessed by the wandering souls, the living dressed in costumes and paraded noisily through villages to scare the spirits away. They also extinguished the fires inside their homes to make them seem uninviting and relit them from the Druidic fire that burned constantly in the Middle of Ireland.

With the lines between living and dead so blurred, divination was much easier and some Druids could tell the future, call upon the dead and even talk with the Devil.

On All Hallows Day, Christians begged door-to-door for "soul cakes" made of bread and currants. In exchange, they promised to pray for the souls of the donors' loved ones, thus speeding the souls' entrance into heaven.

Nina Bruckner / Valley Star

NIGHT OF THE DEAD - Halloween

Children would sing a song begging for the cakes that went something like this one from Celtic Folklore: "Soul, soul, soul cake. Please, good mama, a soul cake. An apple, a plum, a peach or cherry, any good thing to make us merry. One for Peter, one for Paul. Three for Him that made us all." These songs likely led to the jubilant children's "trick-or-treat."

In an Irish folk tale, a drunkard named Jack tricked Satan into climbing a tree and trapped him there by carving a cross into the tree's trunk, only to let him down once he agreed never to tempt Jack again.

"After Jack died," writes Jerry Wilson, former science teacher and author of wilstar.com, "He was denied entrance to Heaven because of his evil ways, but he was also denied access to Hell because he had tricked the devil."

He was given a single ember to light his way, and placed it inside a hollowed-out turnip to keep the flame alive. These came to be known in Ireland as "Jack's lanterns."

"When the immigrants came to America, they found that pumpkins were far more plentiful than turnips," writes Wilson. And so the Jack-o-lantern as we know it was born.

This time of the year also holds spiritual significance in Latin America – particularly Mexico – when the El Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, celebration takes place. Traditions date back to the Aztecs, Mayas and other early people who celebrated their dead in August.

Much like Celtic tradition, the holiday evolved with the infiltration of Christianity and was moved to the beginning of November during the 15th century by Spanish Conquistadors. All Saints Day, Nov. 1, is when the souls of children are expected to return. Adults are believed to visit the following day, All Souls Day.

Families expect the spirits to return home for a holiday visit, according to Dale Hoyt Palfrey of www.mexconnect.com. Families construct altars with photos, flowers, candles and gifts.

The celebration is joyous and families often bring picnics and mariachi bands to the graveyards. Food is left and it is believed that the dead eat the spirit of the food, leaving it void of nutrition and undesirable to the living.

Though the concept of Halloween only came to America in the 19th century, we have embraced this holiday and made it our own. Scary movies, ghost stories and haunted houses have added our own special spin to the rich history of folklore and tradition.

Spooktacular Hangouts
Six Flags Fright Fest at Six Flags Magic Mountain. Open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. through Oct. 31. Tickets are $49.99 at the park.
Halloween Haunt at Knotts Scary Farm. Hours are 7 p.m.-1. a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7p.m.-2 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights through Oct. 31. Tickets are $43-$46.
The Queen Mary's Shipwreck located in Long Beach's Queen Mary. The hours are 7 p.m.-midnight through Oct. 31. Tickets are $30.
For more Halloween Hangouts visit www.lavalleystar.com.

A Feminist View

By Jackie Conley
Staff Writer

There is no burning of bras, punching or bickering in an old abandoned basement. However, the new Valley College feminist club, with male and female members, is raising awareness for social issues that affect women every day.

"People think the women in this group wear combat boots and smoke cigars, and to be a feminist is not feminine," said Women's Studies major Jessica Waugh. "There is such a negative connotation with the word feminist and it shies [scares] people away."

Waugh made her first meeting last week and said she joined the group to help make awareness and to educate herself on some of the issues affecting women today.

Women's Study major Felicia Parazaider, started the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance on campus. Parazaider, who also serves as the club's president, said she was inspired to start the club after taking Women's Studies with Professor Pat Allen, who is one of the club's sponsors with Rebecca Stein.

"I thought it was necessary to do this," Parazaider said. "Yes, we've come along way, but things can still be different."

The Feminist Majority Foundation, a national organization dedicated to women's equality, helps to organize a national network of feminist clubs on college campuses. Jesse Raeder, Senior Campus Organizer for FMLA said the club is one of 180 FMF-affiliated campus groups across the nation.

"We thought there was a lack of feminist clubs on campus," Raeder said.

During the second meeting on Oct. 13, the alliance discussed California's Proposition 73, which would require parental notification 48 hours before a minor may terminate her pregnancy. The proposition will be voted on in the Nov. 8 special election. Raider said the FMLA goal is to find supporters of legal abortion and encourage them to vote on Prop. 73.

"The idea is so teenagers will go to safe clinics instead of back alley's to get an abortion," Raeder said. "Just cause they make abortions illegal doesn't mean abortions stop."

In addition to educating voters to support legalized abortions, the FMLA plans to bring attention to issues on sexual harassment, women in poverty, emergency contraception [morning after pill], and gay rights.

Feminism is "the principle that women should have political, economic and social rights equal to those of men," according to Webster's New World College Dictionary.

The feminist movement dates back to the 18th century, when women in the United States took a stand against being treated unfairly in the workforce. The movement went on to fight for voting and social and economic rights.

In November, the FMLA plans to march for Take Back the Night, a protest against sexual abuse and to raise awareness of violence in families.

The club meets at 2 p.m. every Thursday in Campus Center Room 200.

Maria Low / Valley Star

BLAZING TRAILS-Vice President Jacquelyn Humphrey holds a feminist club meeting at Valley. Pictured are Felicia Parazaider, Jessica Waugh, Stephanie Montes, Anthropology Instructor Rebecca Stein, Lysette Lopez and Jacquelyn Humphrey.

'Enrollment'

continued from page 1

half," said Wieder. "We have eight months to try to reconcile those numbers."

During Valley's enrollment decline, sister school Pierce College has seen a steady increase. Valley's enrollment is down by 4 percent while Pierce is up by the same number.

"We marketed the same as Pierce," said Wieder. "We advertised on the stations that we think reach students."

Like Pierce, Valley uses direct-mail postcards and cable advertising. Mike Cornner, Pierce's director of marketing and public relations, attributes his campus' increased headcount to its student-friendly class schedule.

"We're doing an excellent job scheduling classes, said Cornner. "It's hard to boost enrollment when you offer fewer classes."

Valley is offering 22 fewer courses than last semester and has started to cut classes for next semester due to low enrollment numbers, which might drive away more students.

A 16-member Enrollment Management Task Force and Cherine Trombley, associate dean of research and planning, studied the class schedule to find a solution. They discovered that, in addition to the lack of basic skills classes and a lack of classes required for graduation, the schedule also places required classes at conflicting times. Valley is also offering fewer night classes, although 34 percent of students take only evening classes, with an additional 26 percent taking both day and evening classes.

After the analysis, school officials have started tweaking the schedule and are making other efforts, such as increasing direct-mailing to returning students and boosting advertising to attract new students. Campus officials hope this will have an affect on enrollment as early as the winter and spring semesters.

Administrators are meeting today to discuss possibilities to retain students, such as a December Monarch Day, which would allow continuing students to RSVP for classes before registration and if more than 40 students request a course that class would be added to the schedule. A New Student Welcome Day is also in the plans to introduce students to programs and support services available to new students.

'Legal Advise'

continued from page 1

Stulman and Gary Silverman, who advised students on family law, including divorce and custody issues, as well as criminal law matters such as driving under the influence and arrests.

Family law expert Stulman, also a volunteer attorney at the Van Nuys Self Help Center, is an advocate of free advice.

"Family law is a very emotional area for people," Stulman said. "I think it's very important for them to be educated on what their rights are and what it will be like if or when they go to court."

Religious studies major Jonathan Oskins was one of the people who visited the table.

"She was very helpful," Oskins said of Stulman. "She told me about all the different legal options I had and referred me to other low-cost lawyers."

ASU Adviser Sherri Rodriguez is open to getting more students' input on the project.

"We're working together to find topics that students might be interested in," Rodriguez said. "We plan to continue it for the rest of the fall and then evaluate it to see whether we want it to return."

At last, advertising that features breasts for a valid reason.
Instead of using breasts to sell beer or cars, we're using them to sell breast health. For more information about breast health and ways to get involved in the cause, as well as to find out how to bring our educational breast health tour to your campus, visit
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Metro Orange Line

It's a grand event on October 29!

Breeze from Warner Center to North Hollywood on the Valley's new shortcut. No traffic jams. No blocked lanes. Just a smooth, brisk ride at a fraction of the cost of driving.

*You're Invited to Ride Free!**

Saturday, October 29
6am – 8pm

Sunday, October 30
5am – Midnight

Free Entertainment! Family Fun!
Saturday only, 9 am – 4 pm

Festivities at 5 stations:

North Hollywood	Metro Experience, an interactive mobile theater; Performances by MKM Dance Studios, Joy Theatre, Scott Detweiler & Band, Kelly's Lot, The BoneSharks, Walter Reed Middle School Jazz Band; Performing arts, entertainment booths and Kids' Corner.
Van Nuys	Live mariachi music by "Mariachi Plata"; Grant High School's jazz band, pep band and "One Light" Latin band; Bouncer, face painting, strolling balloon artist and clown.
Balboa	REI booth with free bike safety checks and raffle drawings; Performance by Woodcrest School Chorus; DJ spinning music and Kid's Corner.
De Soto	Halloween Harvest Festival at Pierce College accessible from De Soto Station. Corn mazes, petting zoo, pony ride, bungee jumps, hayride and even a haunted house and trail.
Warner Center	KOST 103.5 live remote; Carter & Burgess Halloween Parade at 1 pm featuring children and pets in costume; Metro Experience safety video; Chivas Soccer Street Team with inflatable soccer play area; El Camino High School Marching Band; Kids' Corner.

* Free fare on Metro Orange Line only, Oct. 29 & 30 only. Regular fares apply on all Metro Rail, Metro Rapid and Metro Local lines.
Entertainment schedule subject to change

Metro

969-06

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL

By Chris Garcia
Staff Writer

Valley continued its league play and fell 2-0 against the Bakersfield Renegades Friday in a game that featured a few arguments.

After the game, two Valley players needed to be restrained, as head coach Erick Archila attempted to calm high tempers.

"Well, there was a lack of communication during the game that caused tension among us," said freshman Diana Jimenez. "Girls need to learn to talk to one another during the game. We may not be best friends off the field, but we need to be best friends on the field to be successful."

The Monarchs entered Friday's contest with back-to-back losses to College of the Canyons (6-0) and Pierce College (10-1). Valley opened league play with a forfeit victory over the Allan Hancock Bulldogs.

Freshman Michelle Escamilla opened Friday's game with three shots on goal in the first five minutes, but was unable to convert the shots into points.

"We gave up some early goals in the first half, but we tightened up on our defense," said Archila. Offensively, we didn't have much luck today."

Renegade Maryellen Bunting had better luck, and put Bakersfield up 1-0 by scoring a goal in the fifteenth minute of play.

Renegade Laura Sanchez added to Bakersfield's lead by scoring just two minutes later.

Haylee Maiden, the Bakersfield goalkeeper, stopped shots on goal by Escamilla, and sophomores Jessie Paul, Myriam Lemailloux and Gladys Nyoth.

Although no goals were scored the second half, the play was full of drama.

The Lady Monarchs frustrated the Renegades by setting traps during the game and drawing the team off sides. The penalties lead to hot tempers for both squads.

Even with the successful traps, Valley failed to cut into the two-goal deficit and wasn't able to muster any type of momentum in the second half.

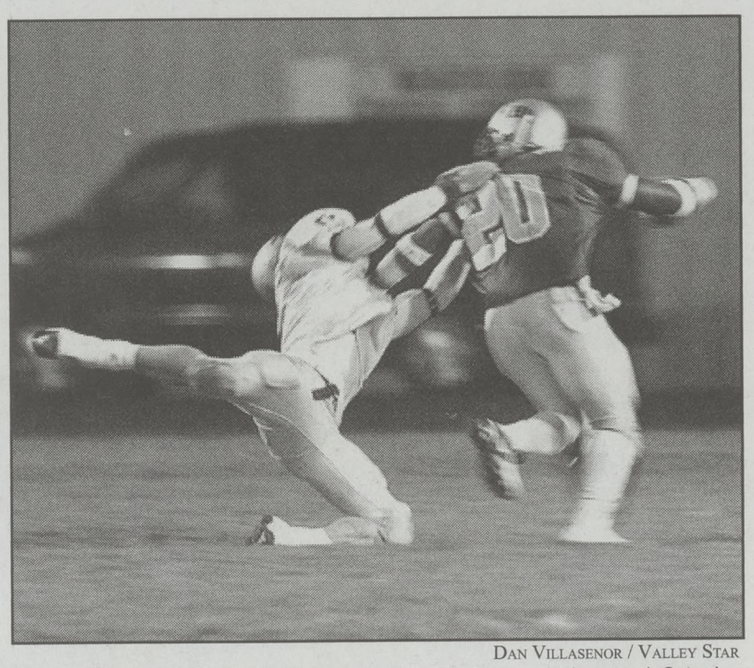
"One shot hit the crossbar, and the other hit the goal post," Archila said. "We had some chances to score, but the ball just didn't want to go in today."

Archila added that teammates need to trust one another and play a simple and basic game if they wish to have any chance the rest of the season.

The Monarchs will continue play at home against the Citrus Owls Tuesday, Oct. 18.

at we came here to do, which was to keep improving as a team," said Jim McMillan, head coach. "The team played well and it was a great experience for each of the players."

McMillan said he was proud of the effort from his players and goalkeeper Kevin Coyne said his team measured this game in other ways.



Dan Villasenor / Valley Star

FANTASTIC FOUR - Monarch football continued its X-game losing streak Saturday with its X-X loss against the Allan Hancock XX.

"We played our hardest and we gave our best effort from the very beginning," Coyne said. "That's the reason I'm satisfied about today's performance."

"We played our hardest and we gave our best effort from the very beginning," Coyne said. "That's the reason I'm satisfied about today's performance."

WATER POLO

Monarchs Thrown to the Lions

This time, Goliath won.

The Valley College men's water polo team faced the defending Western Water Polo Association champions Saturday and lost 18-6.

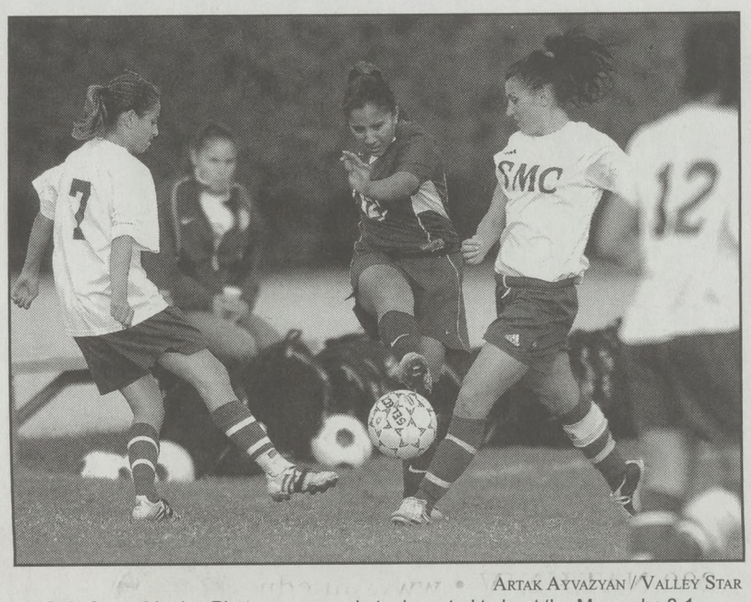
The Monarchs' starting unit was no match for the Lions, which were NCAA semifinalist last year and are currently ranked 10th in the country.

"Today, we accomplished what we came here to do, which was to keep improving as a team," said Jim McMillan, head coach. "The team played well and it was a great experience for each of the players."

McMillan said he was proud of the effort from his players and goalkeeper Kevin Coyne said his team measured this game in other ways.

"We played our hardest and we gave our best effort from the very beginning," Coyne said. "That's the reason I'm satisfied about today's performance."

by Tony Silva



Artak Ayvazyan / Valley Star

AHOY - Santa Monica Pirates once again took control to beat the Monarchs 8-1

SOCCER

Pirates Sack Lady Monarchs

By Jesus Esquivel
Staff Writer

Valley College's Lady Monarchs lost the battle against the Santa Monica Pirates, 8-1, Friday due to the season's worth of injuries and sloppy play.

The Pirates kicked off the game with aggressive attacks and three near goals by Lydia Ladden. Valley's Crystal Martinez responded with a corner kick that left the crossbar shaking.

Twenty minutes into the game, the Pirates' Sarah Erlanson made an overhead center pass from the left sidelines that left all the players looking up. When they turned to see where the ball would land, Norma Alvarado was there to drive it in with her forehead into the goal. It would be the first of four goals she would make for the Pirates.

The Monarchs moved like a swarm of bees that didn't know what to do with their stingers on the field. They were so clustered that they had to dodge one another to move about.

"We had a hard time playing together," Valley sophomore Jessie Paul said. "We need to learn how to play as a team."

The team seemed tense and insecure. The ball wouldn't stay with one player for more than two seconds and passes often went thoughtlessly to opposing players.

Coach Erick Archila blamed the outcome of the game and the season on the team's injuries. He said, "Injuries have killed the team, I'm playing with everyone I have left."

Among those left, was Michelle Escamilla who broke through the Pirates' defense line, ran with the ball and scored the only Valley goal during the second half. She did it all with swollen tonsils.

Dealing with a change of position was surrogate goalkeeper Blanca Valdovinos. She blocked many of the Pirates' shots on goal, including a penalty kick.

"I usually play middle field," she said. "I went in as the goalkeeper, but I didn't expect a penalty kick."

"All our main players are sick or injured," said Valdovinos. "We just had no luck."

The Monarchs will continue the season against Pierce College Friday Oct. 28.

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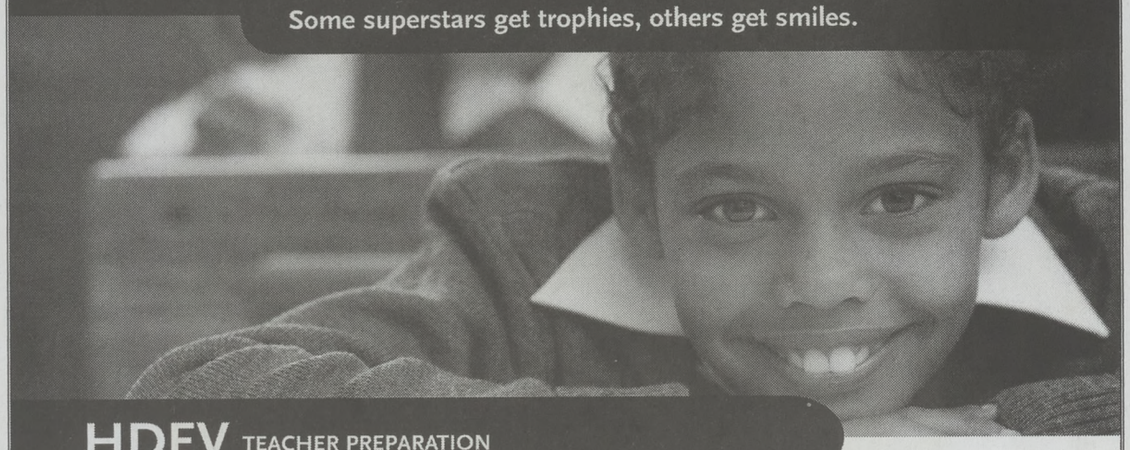
teaching tip #59
Some superstars get trophies, others get smiles.



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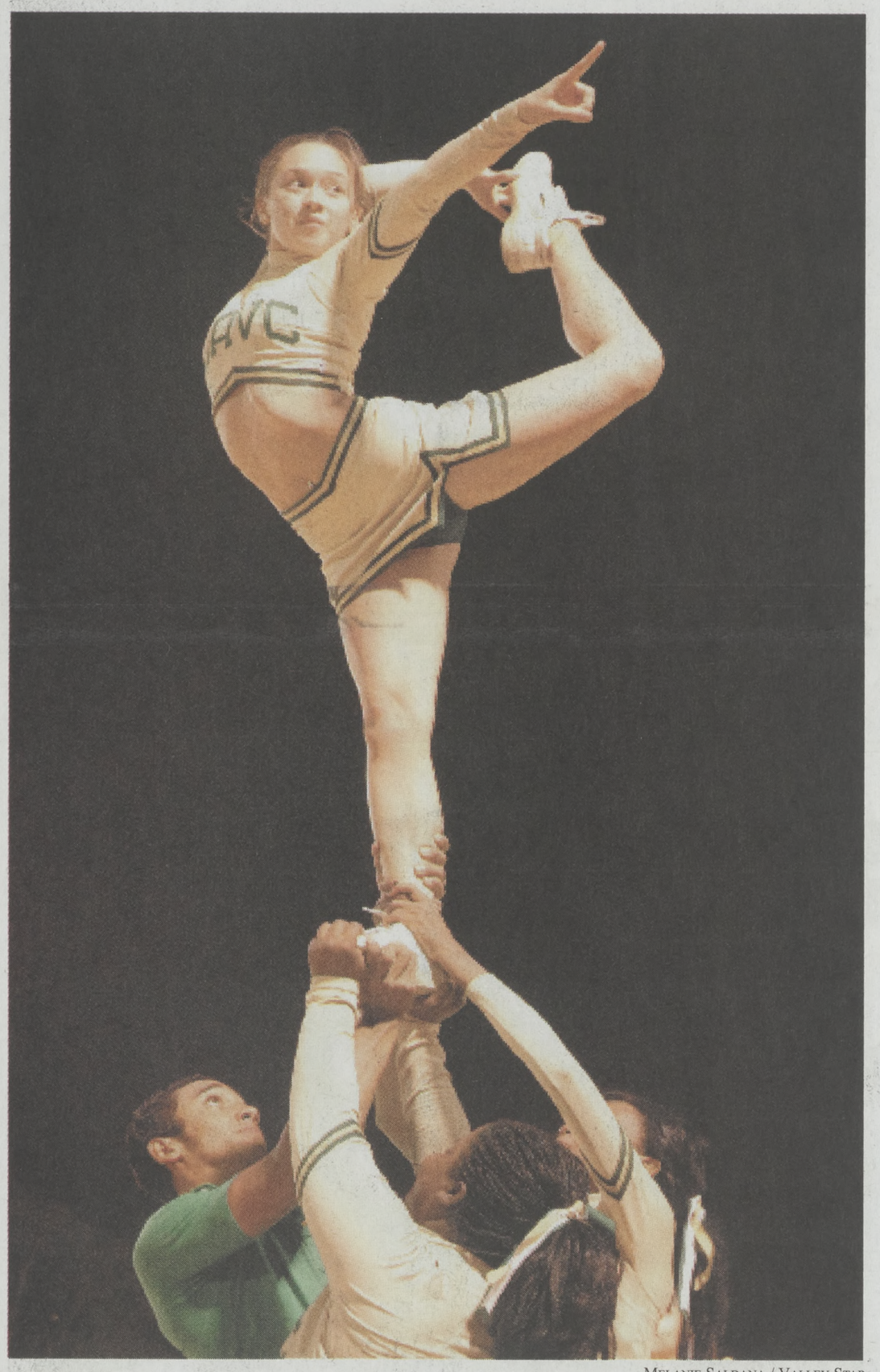
GALLERY

MELANIE SALDANA/ VALLEY STAR

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT - Jamie Rahtz and Charisma Ntowa perform drills during a Tuesday night practice



MELANIE SALDANA / VALLEY STAR

THE PAYOFF - A perfectly executed stunt, known as the Scorpion, has Katrina Lukenbill poised in the trusted palms of her squad's hands. Stunt work is what sets the Valley squad apart and is a requirement for competing with other squads.

MELANIE SALDANA / VALLEY STAR

FIRED UP! - Valley cheerleaders keep the fans alive as the game progresses

MELANIE SALDANA / VALLEY STAR

AIRBORNE - Katrina Lukenbill is tossed by fellow squad members during stunt practice.

GAME FACES

Photos and text by

Melanie Saldaña

Every weekend the Monarch cheerleading squad performs before sparse crowds and a lackluster football team. Despite challenging circumstances, this group of young people work at keeping spirits and team support high. Formed eight years ago and led for the past three years by Levis Francis, sport-cheer is a class offered under Intercollegiate Athletics. The course is open to all students, but only those who can perform all of the material have the opportunity to step onto the field.

Cheer encompasses a number of disciplines including gymnastics, dance, and stunt work. Members of the team meet twice a week to learn new, and polish old, routines. Weight and flexibility training, along with constant drilling, make for a challenging class and the clean performances that crowds have come to expect from sports cheering.

The Valley squad is led capably by Chris Cuprill who sets the tone for the warm and inclusive vibe that is presented by the group on the field. New members are cultivated and not excluded in the name of competition as is seen so often in films. In fact, just the opposite is true in this case. When I first began this project, one of the cheerleaders, Kathy Rodriguez, was timid and unsure of her abilities. She made the squad by being able to execute the moves, but lacked confidence on the field. The acceptance and nurturing given to her by those with more experience contributed to her blossoming in a matter of weeks.

In spite of low attendance, the Monarch cheerleaders perform each week as though the stadium was full of fans. Squad members, and all of those in the class, work together to make for some of the only entertaining moments that we see on the football field this season.

MELANIE SALDANA / VALLEY STAR

SMILES IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY - Squad members (left to right) Kathy Rodriguez, Cheyenne Conston, Charisma Ntowa, Jamie Rahtz, Chris Cuprill and Katrina Lukenbill are all smiles in spite of another loss by the Monarch football team.